thetech.com

Volume 140, Number 30



WEATHER, p. 2 Partly Sunny. SAT: 69°F | 59°F Mostly Cloudy.

Thursday, September 10, 2020

ASE overall pass rates increase by 10.2% compared to Fall 2019

Chemistry department did not offer fall ASEs but plans to for spring term; 18.03, 18.06 also not offered

By Melissa Nie

This fall, students took a total of 1,488 Advanced Standing Exams (ASEs) with an overall pass rate of 79.8%. Compared to last fall, students completed 326 more exams with a 10.2% higher overall pass rate.

Most Fall 2020 ASEs were virtually administered in late July and early August. ASEs are traditionally administered during orientation week at the end of August.

Elizabeth Young, associate dean and director of first-year advising and programming, provided the 2020 ASE data in an email to The

232 students took the 7.01x (Introductory Biology) exam, nine of whom were upperclassmen, with an 89.2% pass rate, up from the 66.4% rate from last fall.

The pass rate for 18.01 was 18.9%, down from 38.1% last fall, while the rates for 18.01A and 18.02 were 81.1% and 77.0% respectively. 180 students took the 18.01A/18.01 ASE and 287

The anomalies in the 18.01A/18.01results were due to the new online exam format, as well as the fact that most students only take the 18.01A portion of the test, Young wrote. This fall, "everyone was scored on both, which makes the pass rate rate for 18.01 look much, much lower than usual" as "the denominator is so much larger now."

The 18.03 (Differential Equations) and 18.06 (Linear Algebra) ASEs were not offered this fall.

As in previous years, the 6.0001 ASE had the most test-takers, with about 410 exams taken and a 93%

This fall, 184 students took 8.01 (Physics I) and 41.3% passed, while 195 took 8.02 (Physics II) with a pass

The deadline to add half-term

classes offered in the first half

The UROP Direct Funding

deadline for sophomores, ju-

niors, and seniors is 11:59 p.m.

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IN SHORT

of term is Friday.

EDT Sept. 15.

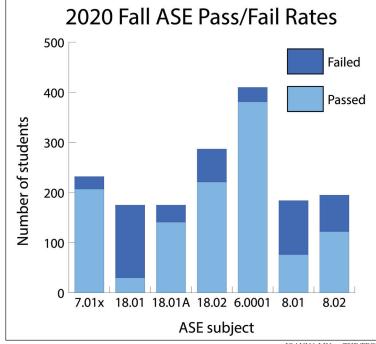
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CLASSIC NOLAN

certainly not his worst.

His first thriller is

ARTS, p. 7



JOANNA LIN — THE TECH

ASE pass rate were highest for 6.0001, which was also the most-taken

The Chemistry Department did not offer any ASEs virtually this fall but has plans for exams in the spring

ASEs will take place again in January, but exact dates are unavailable at this time.

In an interview with The Tech, Pranav Arunandhi '24 commented on his experiences taking the ASEs virtually with proctoring software.

"The resources on MITx made the online test format more familiar, but the proctoring service added an additional level of stress to the exams, as I was unsure what would and wouldn't be flagged as inappropriate conduct," Arunandhi said. "Furthermore, I had Proctortrack crash during" three "exams, pletely restart the exam. So, overall, it was definitely a disconcerting experience, contributed to more so by Proctortrack than the exams themselves.

Despite the technical difficulties, Arunandhi passed all of his ASEs.

Most of the exams were effective at breaking each question into multiple parts in order to allow for multiple avenues of receiving points on a question; other exams did not do so well on that front, causing small errors to lead to a large loss of points, especially since partial credit was not awarded," Arunandhi

The Fall 2020 Emergency Academic Regulations, released Aug. 10, discourage use of Proctortrack in



Members of the MIT community waiting in front of MIT Medical to get tested for COVID-19 on Thursday, Sept. 3.

MIT Dining to serve undergrads living in on-campus housing during fall semester

Meals will be served by dining staff, not self-serve like before COVID-19

By Daisy Wang

MIT Campus Dining is providing service at nine undergraduate dorms and the Stratton Student Center this fall. Undergraduates living on campus are required to enroll in a 14-meals-per-week plan featuring the same menu at all

Meal plan costs have been subsidized with a \$984 COVID-19 dining subsidy and a dining allow-

cial aid gives students additional flexibility, according to the 2020 Undergraduate Campus Guide. Students may add up to \$150 of optional dining dollars.

The MIT Dining website writes that breakfast and lunch are served in the Student Center's Lobdell Food Court, Dinner and weekend brunch are served in students' assigned residence halls. Food will be delivered to the four open

Dining, Page 2

DAPER reopens indoor facilities for the fall term

Limited in-person physical education, club sports, and intramurals to also be available

By Emily Jiang

The MIT Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER) reopened its indoor facilities Sept. 8. Limited group and private physical education instruction will also occur this fall. These changes mark the beginning of the second stage of DAPER's four-stage reopening plan.

DAPER reopened its outdoor facilities and began holding in-person outdoor fitness classes for MIT community members in July during the first stage of its reopening. DAPER will expand its group and private instruction in January (Stage Three) and remove social distancing restrictions once there is a COVID-19 vaccine (Stage Four), according to the 2020

letic Center, Alumni Pool/Wang Fitness Center, DuPont Tennis Courts, J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble, Steinbrenner Stadium, Jack Barry Field, Sailing Pavilion, Morrison Track, and DuPont Gym reopened Sept. 8, according to the Fall 2020 Undergraduate Campus

The Zesiger Center and Alumni Pool/Wang Fitness Center will be open Monday through Friday 7 a.m.-10 p.m.. The Zesiger Center will also be open from noon to 7 p.m. on weekends. (During Stage One, indoor facilities were closed, and the Zesiger Center's outdoor facilities were open for eight hours each day.) Some facilities, including the Alumni

COVID-19 Reopening DAPER Facilia and Zesiger pools, squash courts, and ties and Service Operations Playbook. outdoor tennis courts will require ad-The Zesiger Center, Johnson Ath- vance reservations through the MIT living on campus, graduate students Recreation app.

DAPER is offering remote asynchronous, remote synchronous, and in-person physical education and wellness classes for students this fall. Each in-person class is limited to at most ten students, according to the PE and Wellness website. MIT Recreation will continue to offer virtual and outdoor in-person fitness classes for MIT community members.

Club sports and intramurals are available only to undergraduate and graduate students who are invited on campus this fall. Fall varsity sports have been canceled, and all varsity and club sports travel and competition has been canceled for the fall.

Access to DAPER facilities will be living on and off campus, MIT employees living on campus, and the families of students and staff residing on campus. The playbook states that individuals must "hold an active MIT Recreation membership and utilize the MIT COVID Pass app prior to gaining entry" to facilities.

DAPER will track the occupancy of each facility hourly on the MIT Recreation website.

Zesiger and Wang Fitness Center equipment has been arranged so that exercise areas are spaced at least 14 feet apart as per Massachusetts state guidelines, the playbook writes. All

DAPER, Page 8

write for us

Be a PENguin

VIDEGARAY MUST GO

His corrupt actions make him unfit to advise Al policy. OPINION, p. 4

FEELINGS ARE HARD

Love's in the air. Can you taste it? CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3

TOXIC ADVISORS

Professors should not be able to destroy students' confidence, research, and futures. OPINION, p. 5

NON-VIOLENT PROTEST

Peaceful advocacy for societal change. OPINION, p. 5

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WEATHER

Unprecedented weather in unprecedented times

By Sarah Weidman STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Welcome back to MIT, though potentially not to campus itself. Although we are not all on campus, experiencing the idiosyncrasies of Boston weather together, the weather column lives on. As we have seen already this summer, wild weather stops for no virus!

The city of Boston has finally started to experience hints of fall weather. After a hot and humid summer, night is falling earlier and earlier, and temperatures are starting to drop at night. We still have a few more weeks of warmth (as evidenced by temperatures in the 80s this past week), but expect to have to pull out your long sleeves and jackets soon. Enjoy the sun on Friday and Saturday after today's rain cools down the city, since we expect to see another rainy day on Sunday.

Elsewhere in the country, extreme weather goes on. In California, fires are ravaging the state after a hot and dry summer. If you're located near one of these fires, please stay safe and keep up to date with your emergency protocols! The Rockies also saw some unprecedented weather this past week; some areas in Colorado experienced a smokey heat wave on Monday with temperatures in the high 90s, followed by snow the following day! This is one of the fastest temperature drops seen in the country, and further analysis will tell whether it broke any records. Especially since we are still in the middle of hurricane season, expect more unexpected extreme weather in the coming months, wherever you are located.

Extended Forecast

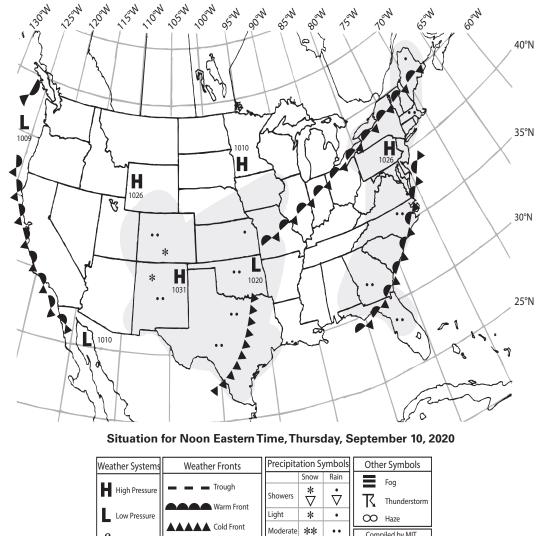
Today: Chance showers and thunderstorms. Southwest wind around 3-8 mph. High 80°F (27°C).

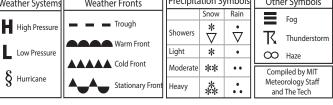
Tonight: Chance of showers. Southwest becoming north wind around 7-9 mph. Low 62°F (17°C).

Tomorrow: Partly sunny. North wind around 9-13 mph. High 69°F

Saturday: Sunny. High 69°F (21°C).

Sunday: Chance showers. High 73°F (23°C).





Hayes: students should keep wearing face coverings, physical distancing

Dining, from Page 1

cook-for-yourself dorms and served by dining staff. All meals, including breakfast and lunch, were served in residence halls during Quarantine Week. According to a dining FAQ, there will be no late night dining at Maseeh or Simmons this fall "due to inter-house meal restrictions."

MIT Dining is also launching the GET online ordering system to allow students to order meals in advance. Students may use the GET website or mobile app to select meals "up to six days in advance," access an "order-ahead pickup line for expedited meal service," and "pre-schedule meal pickup times," Mark Hayes, director of MIT Dining, wrote in an email to the MIT community Sept. 9.

Starting Sept. 10, students may use the GET ordering system to preorder lunch at Lobdell. Hayes wrote that MIT expects to expand GET service for residence hall dinner and weekend brunch "soon."

All food is served in takeout containers. Meals will be served by

dining staff rather than self-serve "due to public health guidance," the FAQ writes. Instead of an "all-youcare-to-eat" system, "students will go through the serving line once and can ask for extra servings." Additionally, MIT Dining "want[s] students to maintain healthy lifestyles and receive proper nutrition," so "the focus this year is generous

The same menu will be served across all locations. MIT Dining resized its menu this fall to "a limited number of entrees and sides" to allow "higher food quality, speed of service, and portability," the FAQ writes. Additionally, MIT has fewer culinary staff than usual years due to the need for physical distancing in kitchens.

MIT Dining will work with Bon Appetit and Disability and Access Services to accommodate students' food allergies and dietary restrictions, the FAQ writes. Kosher, halal, and vegetarian options are available.

The Baker kitchen will produce vegan food and the McCormick kitchen will produce "vegetables and side dishes," with no meat or animal products allowed in either kitchen, according to the MIT Dining website. Maseeh's "Oasis" kitchen will prepare food without the eight major allergens (milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat). Salads, desserts, fruits, and snacks will be "individually prepackaged," and other foods will also be packaged and served separately to prevent cross-contamination.

Hayes wrote in an email to The Tech that pre-packaged meals mean a "different catering model," resulting in "lots of time getting our delivery systems down and ensuring that students with special dietary needs are taken care of."

The MIT Dining website writes that several preventive measures are being taken to help ensure a safer dining experience, including providing take-out meals "to reduce dining area density" and "expedite meal service," ensuring that staff use PPE at all times, practicing "enhanced cleaning procedures in kitchens and dining rooms." Additionally, Plexiglas partitions have been installed at

counters and pickup locations, and all meals will be served in compostable or recyclable containers.

Students are required to wear face coverings in all dining locations except when eating at a table. Floor markings guide students to maintain six feet of physical distancing, according to the MIT Dining website.

Hayes wrote to The Tech that "on behalf of the dining staff," students should "keep doing their part by wearing face-coverings and maintaining six feet of distance between each other when in line." Hayes also expressed appreciation for the "students and house teams for their patience and feedback as we get going" and the dining staff who "have worked so hard to re-invent our approach to dining in just a few

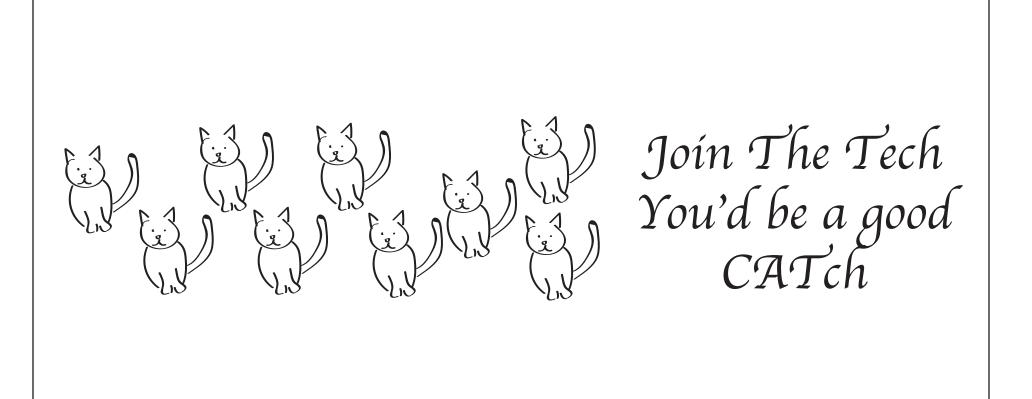
TechMart is open weekdays in the Student Center Coffeehouse Lounge, the FAQs write. Dunkin' Donuts and the Cambridge Grill are the only retail eateries expected to reopen in the building, although their opening has been "delayed,"

the undergraduate guide writes. Additionally, vending machines will not be operational this fall "due to building security concerns and sanitation."

Eric Shee '24, a first-year student living on campus, wrote in an email to The Tech that "the food has been good!" Shee commented on the many "choices in entrees," "selection of fruits [and] salads," and variety in beverages. Entree choices have included lasagna, pasta, roasted chicken, beef curry, mashed potatoes, lentils, and rice.

Shee said in an interview with The Tech that the second floor of the Student Center has been "cleared out" to serve lunch, while nearly "everything else in the building is closed." Students swipe their ID cards to enter the building, and 'markings on the floor" guide students to the serving area.

Shee wrote that while students "were confined to eating in [their] own rooms" during Q-Week, there are now "people eating out on the grass outside of the student center, and it feels much more lively."



Abstractions of emotion

How does one describe bittersweet nostalgia?

By Wenbo Wu EDITOR

Ever since I moved back to Boston. I've had a lot of conflicting, difficult-todescribe feelings. But most challenging of all has been trying to piece words together and capture all of them adequately in this week's article, especially in the context of

To be fair, I haven't, historically speaking, been the best at sticking to the topic of a walk, but maybe I should do that here.

Hmm. I'll suppose one way to kill two birds with one stone is to look at the different sections of my most recent trek through the lens of one emotion at a time (although they generally coexist). For example, I could depict scenes with

...apocalyptic flare

I look through the vitreous infrastructure. Nothing has changed, yet everything has. I don't recognize the empty cobwebbed faces staring back at me. What are they thinking? That's the thing about them: I can't see their eyes. I can't see their eyes! They stand frozen, in one pose, a singular moment in time, as though they were holding their breath without lungs or mouth. But just for a split second, with a glimmer over the spot where their eyes should be, I can almost taste hope in their reflection.

I shift the mask further up my nose if only to conceal more of my face. To the clattering footsteps in my mind, I march on and on and on. I try to placate them by conforming to their tempo, or perhaps devising my own to complement theirs. But alas, the snares won't stop hissing, the tambourines won't stop ringing, and the bass won't stop thundering.

There's a store sign flickering in the distance. I nod in recognition; a trolly grazes by in response. The weight of my backpack increases. I trudge along as the concrete sidewalk becomes quicksand. I'm sinking.

I pass a display of mannequins while a Ben Platt song plays through my headphones. Only the honking of cars keeps me alert behind tired eyes. I yearn for rest, yet I want to drop everything and dance like a fool.

...exorbitant saccharinity

The sunshine peers daintily from behind the iridescent clouds. The birds sing, dancing like kites, scurrying like mice between the treetops. Over the surface of the river, a hint of a rainbow colors the path below my feet. Love's in the air. Can you taste it?

A luminance blows past the rusted trusses, polishing them, allowing their shadowed and coarse complexions to glimmer for the first time in a century. The light enters my eyes, allowing them to glow similarly past the darkness of their constructions. Can you see them?

I feel the dirt crunch beneath my soles, catharsis in my soul. A couple of sailboats docked not far upstream float carefree in the river. Flowers smile and wave as I pass. Oh how I've missed them. Can you smell

I cross the Boston University Bridge at sundown and walk along the footpath trail by the Charles River. I hear nothing; I feel good.

...or complete disorientation.

Beige and crimson flood my vision, my eyes dart about. The paint blots itself upon the retinal canvas so recognizably, yet the patchwork holds no name, a familiarity at the tip of my tongue so delicate it must not be uttered. I can make out the shapes, I can make out the colors, yet I can make it all out to be nothing but saudade.

The clear, glassy infrastructure is back in all its blurriness. Back, curved with a roof so low, so accessible, yet so out of reach. The green is back. The green that never left, not like I, not like that ever again.

Longing: a pain of abandonment so ancient that continues, despite the best of our technological efforts, to be a pain felt by hearts to this day. Longing: what I see when I strum my memories. I've been waiting, still. I imagine all the good, I hope for the better, and I cling to the best person

I've missed MIT. I miss my friends. I walk down Mass. Ave., tears in my eyes.

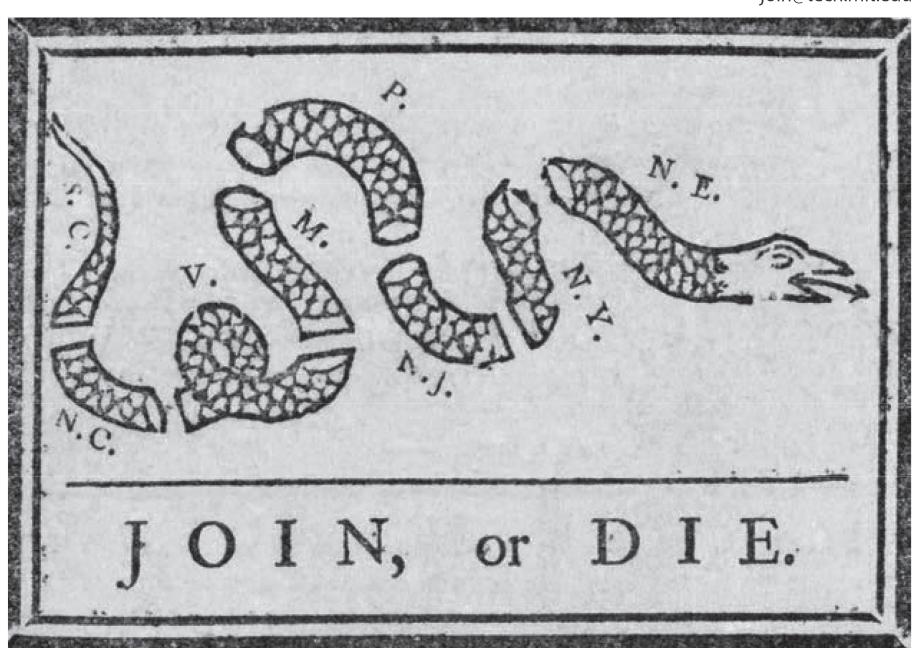
Regardless of my struggles to convey my feelings, I think it's especially important to find internal peace during these times. While life has perhaps never been more monotone for some and tumultuous for others, the search for complexity, beautiful or doleful, has never been more necessary.

Thus, my question of the week follows: what's something mundane in your life that, upon closer inspection, is incredibly fascinating under a change of perspective? I'll let that marinate before we meet again in two weeks. For me, writing this column sheds some beauty on my life, and I hope reading it helps you, too.

Want to draw graphics that engage, provoke, and speak to the MIT community?

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the sum mer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). $\bf POSTMAS$ TER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2020 The Tech. Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.

OPEN LETTER

Why Luis Videgaray must leave MIT

By Patricia Arnal Luna, Rodrigo Escandón Cesarman, Leonardo Escudero, and Alonso Espinosa Domínguez

Dear members and friends of the MIT community,

One year ago, MIT was embroiled in the horrifying scandal involving child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. This led to the departure of MIT Media Lab director Joi Ito. Today, another scandal-ridden faculty member holding a leadership position at the Institute is bringing turmoil to MIT: Mexican politician Luis Videgaray Caso. The scandals include corruption, abuse of power, criminal association, electoral crimes, money laundering, and conflicts of interest.

Who is Luis Videgaray?

Before coming to MIT, Luis Videgaray was Mexico's Finance Minister (2012-2016) and then Foreign Minister (2017-2018) during Enrique Peña Nieto's presidency. Luis Videgaray was also the Secretary of Finance for the State of Mexico from 2005-2009, when Peña Nieto governed the state, and campaign coordinator for Peña Nieto's 2012 presidential run.

MIT praised Videgaray's political career when it hired him. However, he has been the subject of multiple journalistic investigations and lawsuits.

Videgaray joined MIT in July of 2019 as a senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management and as a distinguished fellow of the MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative. Most significantly, he was appointed Director of the AI Policy for the World (AIPW) Project, a joint program between the Sloan School and the Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing (SCC). (Schwarzman, who donated \$350 million to found the SCC, was awarded the Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca — the highest honor granted to foreigners by the Mexican government — in November 2018 by Mexico's then Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray).

Videgaray was hired to lead the AIPW project as an "expert in geopolitics and AI policy" who would further the SCC's stated mission: to "position [MIT] as a key player in the responsible and ethical evolution of technologies that will fundamentally transform society." In particular, Videgaray and the AIPW would strive to "make AI's ethical impact 'a truly global discussion," and "explore the best AI policies for countries around the world based on various geopolitical considerations," as well as considerations of "societal implications" and of how to "uphold democracy."

Videgaray's Involvement in Corruption

MIT praised Videgaray's political career when it hired him. However, he has been the subject of multiple journalistic investigations and lawsuits involving him and the government ministries he has led in corrupt schemes. The following is an incomplete list of such investigative reports and lawsuits that implicate Videgaray personally and/or the ministries under his leadership:

Investigative Reporting

· Misappropriation of public funds. Embezzlement and laundering of funds allegedly from the Finance Ministry (during Videgaray's tenure as Finance Minister) in order to fund 2016 gubernatorial campaigns for the then ruling party, the PRI. Journalists have compiled documents showing how, in multiple PRI state governments, millions of dollars in public funds were diverted to shell companies through fraudulent government contracts. They also revealed that some implicated officials testified in court that the money paid to these shell companies was knowingly authorized by the Federal Finance Ministry and was used for electoral purposes.

By employing Videgaray, whose ethical standing is in serious question, MIT is needlessly undermining its own moral authority.

- Videgaray allegedly allowed the creation of a bank by former Chihuahua governor Cesar Duarte (currently detained and facing charges for his role in the abovementioned scheme to divert funds for PRI campaigns) in order to launder money. Once Duarte was charged in Mexico and requests were sent to the US State Department for his extradition to Mexico, Videgaray, who was the Foreign Minister at the time, contributed to delays in the fulfillment of these requests, according to journalists.
- Conflict of interest. Irregular purchase of a luxury home from Grupo Higa, a construction company with government ties.
- Misappropriation of public funds. Audited irregularities in funds granted to Mexican consulates by the Foreign Ministry during Videgaray's tenure.
- · Corruption and conflict of interest. Partnerships and agreements with BlackRock and Larry Fink with at least one without a transparent and competitive bidding process.

Lawsuits

- · Complicity in corruption, bribes, and criminal association surrounding government concessions to the construction firm OHL to build an elevated highway in the State of Mexico in 2008, when Videgaray was the state's Finance Secretary. Filed on November 24, 2016. So far, Mexico's Office of the Attorney General has confirmed that the concessions to OHL were in fact illegal, although it has not confirmed Videgaray's complicity. See also this essay on the OHL scandal.
- Irregularities in government concessions for the Project of Technological Integration of Customs (Proyecto de Integración Tecnológica Aduanera, or PITA). Filed on January 10, 2020. The Superior Auditor of the Federation has also reported irregularities in these government concessions.

Most recently, as of August 11, 2020, Videgaray, together with Peña Nieto, is being formally investigated by Mexico's Office of the Attorney General. The investigations stem from testimony and evidence offered to the Attorney General by Emilio Lozoya ated from MIT with a BS in Mathematics.

Austin (the former director of state oil company PEMEX when Videgaray, as Finance Minister, sat on PEMEX's board of directors) during his own trial for corrupt dealings with the Brazilian builder Odebrecht. Videgaray, along with Peña Nieto, is accused of funneling millions of dollars in bribes from Odebrecht first into Peña Nieto's campaign, and then later into the pockets of legislators in order to ensure their support for Peña Nieto's major structural reforms. According to some legal experts, these investigations could result in charges against Videgaray and the former president as severe as organized crime.

It may or may not be the case that Videgaray will ever be found guilty by a judge of committing crimes himself. However, the breadth and depth of credible accusations against him raise serious doubts over his moral authority to lead research projects about social, ethical, and political consequences of AI policy, let alone to explore the "best" AI policies for "upholding democracy" in other countries.

The pursuits of scientific knowledge and technological development must be joined at the hip by a commitment to ethics. Otherwise, they can serve to intensify injustices, inequalities, and abuses of power. By employing Videgaray, whose ethical standing is in serious question, MIT is needlessly undermining its own moral authority to steer scientific progress towards the betterment of society, as well as its integrity as an institution that handles public funds.

As such, MIT should end Videgaray's appointments as senior lecturer, as director of the AIPW Project within Sloan and the College of Computing, and as distinguished fellow at the MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative.

MIT should not risk sending the message that politicians across the world can abuse their power while in office.

Neither MIT nor any other institution is perfect. However, concrete actions such as this can have a positive impact institutionally, nationally, and internationally, as well as individually for many members of this great community. Corruption and impunity are not to be condoned. MIT should not risk sending the message that politicians across the world can abuse their power while in office, and then be rewarded with important positions at U.S. institutions.

The main authors of this letter, in alphabetical order by last name:

Patricia Arnal Luna SM '20 graduated with an MSc in Engineering and Management from MIT and is an environmental sustainability consultant.

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OPINION POLICY

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

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The professor is always right

MIT must take action to protect graduate students from abusive professors

By Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT

MIT is fully aware of abuse, harassment, and mistreatment of its graduate students. It is doing nothing to change it.

"Have you looked at your grades yet?"

Frost coated the office windows on this chilly January day. I offered a passing remark, assuming this to be a simple post-vacation ice breaker.

"No, I mean your grade for research."

He said it almost with pleasure. A bursting surprise that he could barely hold inside without it spilling out. The face you make right before you lay down a game-winning royal flush.

"I gave you a U for your thesis work this last semester."

He explained how he was Unsatisfied with my research progress. For reasons unknown, he wanted that reflected on my transcript. That permanent document that follows you your entire career, the one interviewers pore over, looking for red flags.

I fumbled for a response. I had never even heard of this happening to another student.

"I do not understand. Our last meeting before break — those pages and pages of derivations — I checked them thoroughly. Not a subscript out of place, not a minus sign missing. You— you told me it went well."

Those of us less fortunate leave research meetings bleeding a cornucopia of colors.

He agreed with me, but apparently mastering how to navigate meetings with his eccentric style was not enough.

I imagine that all happy advisor-advisee relationships are alike. But those of us less fortunate leave research meetings bleeding a cornucopia of colors.

Each meeting seemed independent from the last. Whatever we had discussed or he had asked for, the next meeting could be about something completely different. It was difficult to develop a path forward with these zig-zag meeting patterns. One

incorrect subscript and the entire meeting was derailed. It took a semester to learn the ropes, to grasp how to direct meetings rather than be dragged around.

But it wasn't just the work my advisor critiqued; he went after me as a person. Over the course of that semester, he said many soul-crushing things to me. He told me he thought I "would never finish my master's," that "he didn't have this problem with any other student." The worst was when he told me I didn't "think correctly." How do you attempt to process a world-renowned MIT professor invalidating the very way you form thoughts?

How do you attempt to process a worldrenowned MIT professor invalidating the very way you form thoughts?

I met with my department head to see what my options were. There were really only two: find a new advisor in a month's time, or leave MIT.

It was highly unlikely that any professor would take me on so quickly with a U on my record. So naturally, I wanted to get this research grade officially reviewed. I told my department head that I had documentation of my work. However, I was told if I fought, no other professor would take me.

Not only had my professor tanked my career, he made it almost impossible to find another professor. If there had been a third option, transitional funding, I would have had more time to find someone else, to showcase the kind of work I could do when I was not being constantly verbally harassed.

Not only had my professor tanked my career, he made it almost impossible to find another professor. If there had been a third option, transitional funding, I would have had more time to find someone else, to showcase the kind of work I could do when I was not being constantly verbally harassed. So I left MIT, left Boston, left my friends and the life I had built. The next year was spent desperately trying to find a job. I sent count-

less resumes into the black hole of online job applications. I attended career fairs at my universities, did my best to hide the blaring stain of my incomplete degree. Why would they take a chance on me when there was a fresh, shiny new graduate in line behind me? Where do you put the asterisk for your spirit being crushed by your MIT advisor?

One of the hardest parts was seeing my classmates on the other side of the table, giving out jobs rather than begging for one. I took a waitressing job, making very little and wishing every day that I was doing engineering work instead.

A year later, a company finally took a chance on me. I thought leaving academia would be selling out. Let me tell you — it is the exact opposite. It's a magical world of HR departments, harassment trainings, dental plans, and substantially better pay rates.

After five and a half years, I found a way back to MIT to finish my master's work. This road would have been much shorter and easier if my advisor had done things differently. If he had discussed options with me, transitioned me to full-time work more gracefully, helped me find another professor to work with.

But he didn't. To this day, I can still hear my advisor's voice in my head telling me I don't "think correctly." Some scars never heal quite right.

I joined the Reject Injustice through Student Empowerment (RISE) Campaign to help ensure that my story would not be repeated. Shortly after joining, I heard a myriad of horrifying anecdotes, many similar or worse than my own. Any one thing would be a fireable offense in the professional world, but at MIT, the professors are treated like untouchable royalty.

The amount of autonomy given to professors is obscene. In one case, eight different students from the same research group went to their department, pleading for help from a toxic research environment. Nothing substantial could be done. So instead, these tales of abuse and harassment continue to be passed down from graduate student to graduate student like twisted, clandestine folklore — a warning system from current students to incoming students. Students pulling others aside on visit day and saying, "Do not join this group."

Some very unfortunate students don't get these warnings. They don't know that the "Biggest Screw Award" sitting on a professor's desk literally means he is celebrated for screwing over students. To some, this is all in good fun, a professor who "pushes" you. But for others, this turns into harassment, and being screwed over means your life falls apart.

To the faculty, to the administration, to Rafael Reif: it is time to get your house in order. We don't want mass emails with nice phrases, supporting the abstract concept of change. We demand tangible actions — mandatory harassment training for professors and discipline for those advisors who are abusing and damaging some of the most brilliant minds of this generation.

Any one thing would be a fireable offense in the professional world, but at MIT, the professors are treated like untouchable royalty.

Because that next professor or innovator is sitting in their professor's office right now, being harassed, being crushed, being destroyed — even after they went to their department, begging to detoxify this poisonous environment so they could attempt to create beautiful research.

And you, truly, are doing nothing to stop

The Reject Injustice through Student Empowerment (RISE) Campaign wants to hear your stories, good, bad, and ugly. Please submit your story, anonymously if you wish, to a form on our website. You can also reach out to RISE for support and to help put an end to this mistreatment at rise4mit@gmail.com. If you support our campaign, please sign our petition.

Editor's note: This article was submitted to The Tech by Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT on behalf of the anonymous author. An exception was made to publish this piece anonymously, in order to protect the identity of the author and to remove identifying information of those involved in the author's story.

GUEST COLUMN

A call to non-violent activism

Listening to historic activists to achieve sustainable, peaceful change

By Charles Theuer

In these times of trouble and turmoil, frustrations have boiled over, resulting in the loss of life and property, neither of which serves the greater good. Every citizen has the right and, some would argue, the obligation to protest injustice: we know silence favors the oppressor, not the oppressed. However, in determining the means to affect societal change, what's past is prologue, and violence is counterproductive.

What's past is prologue and violence is counterproductive.

Martin Luther King Jr. eloquently instructed Americans in times similarly polar-

ized as the present that "the ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth."

Resorting to violence becomes tangible evidence that we lack the courage and intelligence to resolve a conflict by nonviolent means. Segregationist governor George Wallace knew that every time protestors resorted to violence, he had secured political capital that would retard civil rights progress. John Lewis also knew this and was willing to spill his own blood in defense of his principles at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. More recently, Chadwick Boseman knew this when he advised graduates at Howard University to "take the harder way, the more

complicated one, the one with more failures at first than successes... then you will not regret it." Exercising non-violent activism in the face of the rage engendered by injustice is the harder way.

Exercising non-violent activism in the face of the rage engendered by injustice is the harder way.

Plato rejected Athenian democracy on the basis that democracies were anarchic societies without internal unity, that followed citizens' impulses rather than pursuing the common good. What Plato lacked was faith in the citizen majority's ability to establish that common good for themselves. Impulse, more often than not, begets violence, but the restraint of peaceful protest in the name of establishing the truth is where the power to enact real change lies.

While exercising restraint requires discipline, non-violent protest is the way to disprove the lie and establish the truth that Dr. King advocated. Be it fighting against voter suppression, marching in the name of Black Lives Matter, educating yourself and others, or some other form of peaceful advocacy, returning college students have the opportunity to peacefully spearhead and affect change that redress policies that have kept the United States a land of unequal opportunity.

Charles Theuer is a member of the Class of 1985

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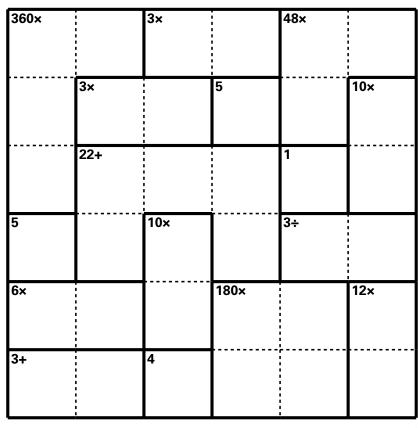
On Campus

Solution, page 8

5	1	9						3
				5		2		9
			9	7		6		
8				4		3	2	
			8		5			
	6	4		2				7
		8		3	2			
2		6		9				
7						9	4	2

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Off Campus



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Start your engines by Gail Grabowski

Solution, page 8

ACROSS

- 1 Drove fast
- 5 Cape Cod seafood serving
- 10 __ Spumante wine
- 14 Strauss of blue jeans 15 Show to be true
- 16 Break sharply
- 17 Operatic song for one person
- 18 Desert spots with water 19 Song sung by one person
- 20 Noisy earth-moving machine
- 22 Made a cut through wood
- 23 Accepts willingly
- 24 Do laps in a pool
- 25 Recollection from the past
- 28 Fanatical fan
- 30 Without assistance
- 31 Vehicle in a parade
- 33 Hamburger bread
- 35 Remote's volume-off button
- 36 Tip of a pencil
- 37 Quote as a reference
- 38 "Without further __ . . . "

- 39 Blender setting for baby food
- 40 Underneath
- 41 Short trip to the store
- 43 Adjusters of piano tones
- 44 Penny
- 45 Mattress springs
- 47 Video calling app
- 49 Roofless vehicle on sandy beaches
- 53 "__ upon a time . . ."
- 54 Removed the rind from
- 55 Make angry
- 56 Took a tumble
- 57 Opinion piece 58 __-steven (tied up)
- 59 Golf pegs
- 60 Main idea
- 61 Takes a glance at **DOWN**
- 1 Thick hunk
- 2 Where Lima is capital
- 3 Wicked 4 Sound on a landline
- phone
- 5 Eerie
- 6 Short-lived fad

- 7 Valentine's Day flowers
- 9 __ Moines, IA
- 10 Attack vigorously
- 11 Noisy vehicle at a ski
- Apple
- 24 Couch or bench
- 25 Second largest of the
- with a gas tank

- 32 Be untruthful
- 34 Evening show with
- 36 Fourth-down kick
- 37 Officially reprimands
- 40 Light in a lamp

- 8 Above

- resort
- 12 "Tall" story
- 13 Music player from
- 21 Take a risk
- 22 Strike, as at a mosquito
- Three Bears 26 Evade capture from
- 27 Two-wheeled vehicle
- 28 Urban district 29 Teach privately
- 31 General Motors rival
- weather reports
- 39 Glass in a window
- 15 16 18 19 20 25 | 26 | 27 29 30 35 44 45 | 46 50 51 52 55 56 58 57 59 60
 - 42 Fights off
 - 43 Make brightly colored T-shirts
 - 45 Witch's hex 46 An hr. after midnight

47 Easily spreadable

48 Joint above the shin

12 13

- 49 100-yard race
- 50 Donate 51 Great joy
- 52 Strong cravings 54 Doggie or kitty

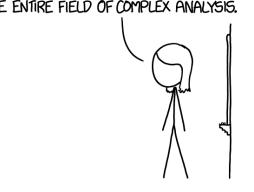
[2028] Complex Numbers

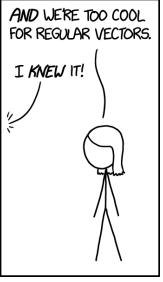


DOES ANY OF THIS REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH THE SQUARE ROOT OF -1? OR DO MATHEMATICIANS JUST THINK THEY'RE TOO COOL FOR REGULAR VECTORS?



COMPLEX NUMBERS AREN'T JUST VECTORS. THEY'RE A PROFOUND EXTENSION OF REAL NUMBERS, LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL THEOREM OF ALGEBRA AND THE ENTIRE FIELD OF COMPLEX ANALYSIS.





geometry and geometric algebra are the same thing.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

A nefariously brilliant crime thriller of old times

You never know who is following whom

By Vyshnavi Vennelakanti

STAFF WRITER

Shot in a black and white London, the movie begins with a person wearing surgical gloves, shifting belongings into a box in the most harmless way possible. However, the eerie background score intensifies as the person continues to transfer the objects, and we see the title of the movie, *Following*.

The movie then transitions to a conversation, where we hear "The Young Man" (Jeremy Theobald) giving his account of certain incidents. We are taken through a flashback where the story unravels from his perspective. As an unemployed aspiring writer, "The Young Man" decides to start following random strangers out of sheer boredom and loneliness. He then takes it to the next level and follows people to gather material for his novel. His seemingly innocuous avocation soon turns into a dangerous obsession when he begins targeting people he finds interesting and tailing them.

Following offers a glimpse into the minds of those who shadow strangers,

those who indulge in burglary, and those who get burgled. We are introduced to characters who give us a totally different perspective on events that are typically ordinary, such as writing a personal diary. We get to see the characters evolve over the movie, and the various shades in a character are revealed one sequence at a time. Following is a film where the moment you think you have cracked the puzzle, you realize that there is so much more to it.

I watched Following as a huge fan of Christopher Nolan, having watched Nolan's other films: *The Dark Knight* Trilogy, *Inception, Interstellar*, and *Tenet*. I did not expect anything less than a classic Nolan masterpiece while watching Following, and, of course, Nolan delivered nothing less. Despite the lack of Nolan-esque visual spectacles due to the small budget, Nolan keeps us thinking and guessing with his gripping screenplay in this crisp crime thriller.

Christopher Nolan is known to have a singular vision of "time," and we can see this fascination with "time" in *Following*, too. Most of the movie is shown as "The Young

Man's" narrative. However, within this narrative, the incidents are not presented in chronological order. Instead, we see an incident before the movie cuts to a sequence which would lead to the incident we just witnessed, and this happens several times in the movie. This non-linear narrative helps maintain the suspense while keeping us actively involved with the movie.

Following is not only the debut feature of Nolan as a director, but also a debut feature for most actors in the film, such as Theobald and Lucy Russell (who plays "The Blonde"). The story revolves around a few characters, and all the actors do complete justice to their roles. The background score is intense at times, hinting at the impending doom. Although we journey through the movie along with "The Young Man", there is no way we could possibly guess what's happening until the very end, and this keeps us captivated.

Overall, the story of a person who obsessively shadows a stranger and practically invites trouble into his life is sure to keep you guessing until the very end. *Following*

Following

Directed by Christopher Nolan

Screenplay by Christopher Nolan

Starring Jeremy Theobald, Alex Haw, Lucy Russell, John Nolan

Rated NR

Streaming on Amazon

is Nolan's first, yet undoubtedly one of his best thrillers ever.

RTS ARTS ARTS ARTS AR



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 8 THE TECH

All exercise equipment to be sanitized after every usage

DAPER, from Page 1

equipment should be sanitized between uses. Hand sanitizers and disposable wipes have been placed throughout facilities. Individuals are "encouraged" to use at most one piece of DAPER facility equipment at a time to allow sanitizing and "use their own personal exercise equipment" when possible.

Restrooms in outdoor facilities will be closed this fall. Saunas and showers will also be closed, and towel service is suspended, the playbook writes.

Individuals must wear face coverings when entering facilities but may remove them in outdoors facilities while maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others. Patrons are also responsible for observing sanitation guidelines and venue occupancy limits.

Operating hours for each facility are available at http:// www.mitrecsports.com/visit/ facility-hours/.

Solution to On Campus

5	1	9	2	8	6	4	7	3
6	8	7	3	5	4	2	1	9
4	2	3	9	7	1	6	5	8
8	5	1	7	4	9	3	2	6
3	7	2	8	6	5	1	9	4
9	6	4	1	2	3	5	8	7
1	9	8	4	3	2	7	6	5
2	4	6	5	9	7	8	3	1
7	3	5	6	1	8	9	4	2

Solution to Off Campus

4	5	1	3	2	6		
6	1	3	5	4	2		
3	4	6	2	1	5		
5	6	2	4	3	1		
2	3	5	1	6	4		
1	2	4	6	5	3		

Solution to Start



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"The Gravitation Process"

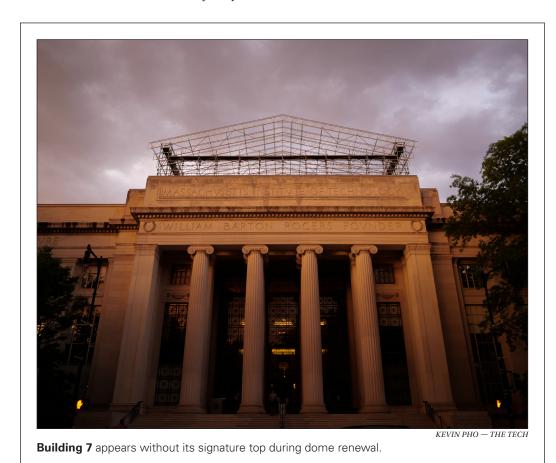
by Robert Black

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